

Braintree District Council

Core Strategy – Submission Draft

**Sustainability Appraisal
and
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Environmental Report
Annex E
Appraisal Matrices**

April 2010



The information contained in this document can be made available in alternative formats: large print, braille, audio tape or on disk. We can also translate this document into other languages.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In 2005 Essex County Council was commissioned by Braintree District Council to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SA/SEA), for Braintree District Council's Core Strategy. The Environmental Report sets out the SA/SEA undertaken for the Core Strategy and draws together the findings of previous stages of the Core Strategy preparation and accompanying SA/SEA reports into one document.

1.2 Appraisal Matrices

This Annex sets out the appraisal matrices of the Policies contained within the Submission Core Strategy. For further detail on appraisal methodology and the criteria used to assess impacts, please refer to Annex C – Sustainability Framework.

2 APPRAISAL MATRICES

TABLE 1: POLICY CS1 – HOUSING PROVISION AND DELIVERY

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	<p>The development of PDL for housing will have a positive impact on this objective; reducing underused land/areas and improving natural surveillance, especially in mixed use developments.</p> <p>Layout and design specifics of development at the Growth Locations have the potential to impact on social cohesion, especially with the range of uses proposed at Panfield Lane as identified in Policy CS4.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	<p>Housing targets and phasing regimes will have a positive impact on the District meeting Regional housing provision targets and population projections/forecasts. This impact is likely to become more positive in the long term as the Growth Locations are developed.</p> <p>In line with Policy CS2, and the different targets for rural and urban areas, the Policy adheres to address affordable housing throughout the entire District, subject to proposals coming forward where locations are not defined.</p> <p>In conjunction with Policy CS9, the Policy will provide homes that can be adapted for the changing needs (lifetime use) of residents throughout the District.</p>	+	++	++
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	<p>The impacts of this Policy are positive in conjunction with the requirements for open space specified in Policy CS10.</p> <p>There is uncertainty in the medium to long term where the capacity of current health facilities is unknown and the pressures of new development including the impact of the growth locations may have negative effects. The development of housing in the Remaining Villages may have negative impacts on health where open space is not often accessible to the public and dwellings are not in accessible locations for health services.</p>	+	/	/
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	<p>The focus of housing delivery in the Main Towns and the location of new Growth Locations have a positive impact on this objective where residents are in accessible locations to Town Centres.</p> <p>Regarding the location and definition of the Key Service Villages in the Core Strategy's 'Hierarchy of Place' and the text in this section of the DPD, it is likely that the Main Towns will benefit from additional pedestrian footfalls from housing development in these areas due to accessibility and frequent public transport links.</p>	+	+	+

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	<p>The delivery of mixed use developments will have a positive impact on this objective. In regards to the development proposals for the Growth Locations incorporating employment, services and community facilities, the impacts on this objective are likely to become more positive in the long term.</p> <p>The location of the majority of housing development in the Main Towns will be supported by employment provision identified in CS4.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	The biodiversity value of specific sites for development will have to be appraised through the relevant processes on a specific site-by-site basis. Greenfield housing development through the delivery of the District's new strategic Growth Locations may have an adverse impact on this objective in the long term.	/	/	/
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	<p>Specific sites for development will have to be appraised through the relevant processes on a specific site-by-site basis.</p> <p>The development of housing in the Main Towns and Key Service Villages may ensure that housing is delivered in locations with good sustainable transport links to primary shopping areas, employment opportunities as well as health, community and leisure services within the District.</p>	/	/	/
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	The development of housing in the Main Towns and Key Service Villages ensures that housing is delivered in locations with good sustainable transport links to primary shopping areas, employment opportunities as well as health, community and leisure services within the District.	+	+	+
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	<p>The development of housing in the Main Towns and Key Service Villages ensures that housing is delivered in locations with good links to employment opportunities and educational facilities within the District. It is advised that the delivery of housing in the Remaining Villages is in conjunction with employment opportunities.</p> <p>The development of Panfield Lane as a mixed-use site incorporating the relocation of Braintree College is likely to positively impact on this objective.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	There may be a positive impact on this objective through housing provision occurring on small infill sites and PDL, however impacts are uncertain as will need to be assessed on a site-by-site basis.	/	/	/
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	The impact of the implementation of this policy is largely uncertain where factors relating to distance from building materials, future CO2 emissions and the use of renewables are unknown at present.	/	/	/
Objective 12: To improve water quality	The impacts on this objective are uncertain and are dependant on specific proposals. This policy is likely to have a positive impact in conjunction with Policy CS8, concerning the introduction of Sustainable Drainage Systems.	/	/	/

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	The impacts on this objective are largely uncertain and are dependant on site specific proposals. However the sequential test as part of national guidance laid out in PPS25 will be applied to all new development on a case-by-case basis as specified in Policy CS8 of the Core Strategy. This positively adheres to this objective with regard to flood risk and surface water runoff issues from new development, which will be particularly relevant on Greenfield land developed for new Growth Locations.	/	/	/
Objective 14: To improve air quality	The impact is largely uncertain. Sustainable locations for housing will decrease the need for transport movements (and thus vehicle emissions) to employment and services. The policy responds to this through development in the Main Towns and Key Service Villages, however these areas correspond to Potentially Significant Junctions in the District. The air quality implications of housing developments in the Remaining Villages will be subject to existing transport links, existing or proposed employment opportunities, and the amount of services in the Rural Services Survey on a case-by-case basis.	/	/	/
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	<p>Impacts are largely uncertain for this policy. The development of PDL as well as regeneration and infill sites for housing may have a positive impact on this objective. Location specific densities will also have a positive effect as will the provision of open space as a requirement.</p> <p>The development of Greenfield land for new Growth Locations has the potential for negative impacts on the landscape and townscape of the main towns and surrounding environments. Despite this, the development of these specific sites is justified as per the Landscape Character Assessment forming part of the Core Strategy evidence base and any impacts will be apparent in the long term.</p>	/	/	/

TABLE 2: POLICY CS2 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	The impacts are uncertain. Where development occurs, it is imperative that affordable units are delivered with community cohesion in mind and do not detract from the design criteria of specific areas.	/	/	/
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	Implementation of this policy will provide affordable housing in both urban and rural areas at appropriate levels in response to existing house prices in these areas.	++	++	++
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	The impacts will be positive where 3,400 houses are located in accessible locations. The location of rural housing as per the 15 year housing trajectory, will see the vast majority of rural house building located in Key Service Centres/Villages within the District, which all contain GP/Surgery services.	+	+	/
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	The affordable housing targets are likely to stimulate housing growth in urban areas in conjunction with the 15 year housing trajectory for the District. This is likely to have a positive effect on increasing pedestrian footfalls in town centres, as well as improving services and facilities in line with requirements to deliver supporting development.	+	+	/
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	The impacts are largely uncertain as specific sites for development will have to be appraised through the relevant processes on a specific site-by-site basis.	/	/	/
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	This policy in accordance with CS1 seeks to locate affordable housing in the District's Main Towns and Key Service Villages. The District's 15 year Housing Trajectory indicates that little housing growth will be located in rural areas of the District that do not already have an appropriate level of sustainable transport links or are in accessible locations. In the long term the impacts are uncertain with the development of the growth locations where affordable units may not be in the most accessible locations on site.	+	+	/

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	This policy in accordance with CS1 seeks to locate affordable housing in the District's Main Towns and Key Service Villages. The District's 15 year Housing Trajectory indicates that little housing growth will be located in rural areas of the District that do not already have an appropriate level of sustainable transport links or are in accessible locations. In the long term the impacts are uncertain with the development of the growth locations where affordable units may not be in the most accessible locations to educational facilities and employment on site.	+	+	/
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 12: To improve water quality	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 14: To improve air quality	Impacts are uncertain in regards to the location of affordable housing in response to Potentially Significant Junctions in towns, and housing delivery being concentrated in urban areas.	/	/	/
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	Impacts are uncertain at this stage where scale, density and design details are not required of the policy.	/	/	/

TABLE 3: POLICY CS3 – GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPERSONS ACCOMMODATION

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	The impacts of this policy on the creation of safe environments and social cohesion are uncertain. The likely impacts of provision will become known once sites are identified in the Allocations DPD.	/	/	/
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	The number of pitches identified for delivery responds to those of the East of England Plan and the Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2009, thus having a positive impact on this objective. Although the locations of such sites are to be included elsewhere in the District Council's LDF, it is stated that future sites will be located within reasonable distance to existing necessary infrastructure, services and facilities.	+	+	+
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	A requirement for sites to be located in reasonable distance to medical facilities and with the provision of play areas may have a positive impact on the health of the District's Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson communities.	+	+	+
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	No direct impact on this objective. Where provision is to be located on sites that are accessible to services and the public highway, it is unknown whether they will respond to locations that would increase pedestrian footfalls in the District's Town Centres.	0	0	0
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	No direct impact on this objective. Where it is stated within the policy that sites should be located, designed and screened to minimise their impact on the environment any impact will be negligible.	0	0	0
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	Although it is stated within the policy that sites will be located in reasonable distances to the public highway, it is uncertain whether sites will be supported by existing sustainable transport facilities until specific details become available in the relevant document of the LDF.	/	/	/
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	It is stated within the policy that sites will be located within reasonable distance of services and amenities.	+	+	+
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	The impacts of the policy on improving the skills and education of the population are positive where it is stated that sites should be within reasonable distances of schools.	+	+	+

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 12: To improve water quality	Where sites should be located within areas not at risk from flooding and capable of being provided with drainage, a water supply and other necessary utility services, any potential negative impacts on flood risk resulting from provision on specific sites will be mitigated, and impacts positive.	+	+	+
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	Where sites should be located within areas not at risk from flooding and capable of being provided with drainage, any potential negative impacts on flood risk resulting from provision on specific sites will be mitigated, and impacts positive.	+	+	+
Objective 14: To improve air quality	Although it is stated within the policy that sites will be located in reasonable distances to the public highway, it is uncertain whether sites will be supported by existing sustainable transport facilities in order to offer alternatives to private vehicles until specific sites are stated in the relevant document of the LDF.	/	/	/
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0

TABLE 4: POLICY CS4 PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	<p>The policy will have a positive impact on creating safe environments and community cohesion.</p> <p>The regeneration of sites in Sible Hedingham and Silver End will also have positive impacts through the reduction of underused land and an increase in surveillance through activity.</p> <p>The social impact of the Panfield Lane Growth Location is uncertain in the long term and dependant on the cohesion of a range of different uses.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	There is uncertainty in the long term with regard to the opportunity to live in a decent home where the phasing of employment land in the mixed use growth locations will need to be in line with the housing element specified in Policy CS1.	0	0	/
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	It can be expected that pedestrian footfalls in town centres will increase where employment provision is focussed in sustainable accessible locations to them. Regarding the location of the new Growth Locations, impacts are strengthened through the improvement of sustainable transport links between the Growth Locations and major developments to town and district centres, railways stations, employment areas and community facilities as specified in Policy CS7.	+	+	+
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	<p>The range of employment types proposed within the Policy, within sustainable accessible locations and in conjunction with existing and proposed (Policy CS1) housing provision in the District, will positively impact on economic growth.</p> <p>The impact on economic growth from this policy will be strengthened in unison with Policy CS6, through a wider range of employment through a wider range of sectors. Regarding the location of the new Growth Locations, impacts are strengthened through the improvement of sustainable transport links between the Growth Locations and major developments to town and district centres, railways stations, employment areas and community facilities.</p>	++	++	++

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	<p>The impacts on this objective are largely uncertain until site specific details are known.</p> <p>The inclusion of 7ha of structural landscaping as a wildlife corridor to mitigate potential negative impacts of the Great Notley employment development on the adjacent Country Park, positively adheres to this objective, although effectively mitigates against any negative impacts the development would have on the nearby County Park and the fact that the site is currently Greenfield land.</p>	/	/	/
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	<p>The impacts of this policy are uncertain until site specific information is known. The locations of new and existing employment provision in the District need to respond well to that of existing and proposed housing provision in conjunction with CS1. This reduces the need to travel to employment opportunities in the District. A range of employment uses responding to a jobs shortage in certain sectors would reduce the commuting culture of the District in the longer term, once the Growth Locations are developed and established. Despite this,</p>	/	/	/
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	<p>The locations of new and existing employment provision in the District need to respond well to that of existing and proposed housing provision in conjunction with CS1. This reduces the need to travel to employment opportunities in the District. A range of employment uses responding to a jobs shortage in certain sectors would reduce the commuting culture of the District in the longer term, once the Growth Locations are developed and established. Despite this, the impacts of this policy are uncertain until site specific information is known.</p>	/	/	/
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	<p>A range of employment uses responding to jobs shortages in certain sectors, are likely to reduce the commuting culture of the District. The presence of a wide range of jobs in different sectors can be seen as incentive for those of a school age to enhance their skills base and seek employment in the District when they leave.</p> <p>Impacts are uncertain where the policy does not elude to the types of jobs which are to be created in the district and the opportunity for improving skills within the workforce</p> <p>The impacts on providing the economic growth and improving the education and skills of the population are likely to become positive in the long term as the Growth Locations are scheduled to be developed with employment in specific sectors.</p>	/	/	+
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	<p>Where the District's cultural heritage and assets may be promoted for tourism opportunities, it is stated within the policy that these will be protected and enhanced. This includes the re-use of the historic factory buildings and retention of the Critall powerhouse as a museum in Silver End as part of the site's regeneration. Despite this, until the specific design of sites is known, the impacts will be uncertain.</p>	/	/	/

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	The impacts of this policy are uncertain until site specific information is known.	/	/	/
Objective 12: To improve water quality	The impacts of this policy are uncertain until site specific information is known.	/	/	/
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	The impacts of this policy are uncertain until site specific information is known.	/	/	/
Objective 14: To improve air quality	The impacts of this policy are uncertain until site specific information is known.	/	/	/
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	The impacts of this policy are uncertain until site specific information is known.	/	/	/

TABLE 5: POLICY CS5 THE COUNTRYSIDE

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	The policy will have no impact on creating safe environments and community cohesion.	0	0	0
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	The policy will have no impact on providing everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home.	0	0	0
Objective 3: To improve the health of the District's residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	The policy will have no impact on improving the health of the District's residents. The protection of the landscape may have a small positive impact on open space provision in synergy with Policy CS10 in specific circumstances.	0	0	0
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	The policy will have no impact on promoting town centre vitality and viability.	0	0	0
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	The policy will have a small positive impact on achieving sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth through appropriate development occurring in the countryside where necessary.	+	+	+
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	There will be a positive impact on conserving the biological and geological diversity of the environment resulting from this policy. Impacts are limited however where it is uncertain how these features will be enhanced by any new development coming forward.	+	+	+
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	There are no direct impacts on promoting sustainable transport choices as a result of this policy. There will be a positive indirect impact on promoting more sustainable transport choices where development is focused in more sustainable locations as a result of this policy in synergy with Policy CS7.	0	0	0
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	There are no direct impacts on promoting accessibility as a result of this policy. There will be a small positive indirect impact on promoting accessibility where development is focused in more sustainable accessible locations as a result of this policy in synergy with Policy CS7.	0	0	0
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	There will be no impact on improving the education and skills of the population as a result of this policy.	0	0	0

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	There will be an indirect positive impact on maintaining and enhancing cultural heritage and assets through the implementation of the policy. Much of the rural District has a tradition of existing medieval field boundaries that will be protected through the policy. The impacts of this policy will be strengthened in synergy with Policy CS9 where development responds to local context, in recognition of the cultural value of much of the Districts rural buildings. Despite this, the policy could include reference to the built environment in the countryside, particularly in regards to cultural heritage and the re-use of existing buildings to support rural diversification, or include the issue in Development Management Policies.	+	+	+
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	There will be no impact on reducing the contributions to climatic change as a result of this policy.	0	0	0
Objective 12: To improve water quality	There will be no impact on water quality as a result of this policy.	0	0	0
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	There will be no impact on flooding as a result of this policy.	0	0	0
Objective 14: To improve air quality	There will be no impact on air quality as a result of this policy.	0	0	0
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	There will be a positive impact on maintaining the quality of landscapes as a result of this policy through a strict control of development. Despite this, the policy could include reference to the built environment in the countryside, particularly in regards to the re-use of existing buildings or include the issue in Development Management Policies.	+	+	+

TABLE 6: POLICY CS6 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION AND RETAILING

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	The impacts on promoting the vitality and viability of the District's town centres are positive where regeneration projects respond to an identified need to revitalise comparison retailing, office and leisure uses and support future populations.	++	++	++
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	The impacts on achieving sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth are positive where regeneration projects respond to an identified need to revitalise comparison retailing, office and leisure uses and support future populations.	+	+	+
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	The impacts of this policy on biodiversity are uncertain where the specific details of the regeneration proposals are unknown at this stage, and it is not clear where they will be elaborated on in the District's LDF. Specific detail concerning scale, type and location, as well as potential traffic movements resulting from development, will need to be assessed at the appropriate stage. It is recommended that the incorporation of SUDS and elements of landscaping are investigated within proposals where relevant to alleviate surface water flooding and provide amenity benefit.	/	/	/
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	The impacts of this policy are uncertain where the specific details of the regeneration proposals are unknown at this stage, and it is not clear where they will be elaborated on in the District's LDF. Specific detail concerning scale, type and location, as well as potential traffic movements resulting from development, will need to be assessed at the appropriate stage. It is recommended that the incorporation of SUDS and elements of landscaping are investigated within proposals where relevant to alleviate surface water flooding and provide amenity benefit.	/	/	/

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	The impacts on this objective are positive where services and facilities are located in accessible locations, especially for the housing elements of Growth Locations.	+	+	+
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	The impacts of this policy on maintaining and enhancing cultural heritage and assets are uncertain where the specific details of the regeneration proposals are unknown at this stage, and it is not clear where they will be elaborated on in the District's LDF. The issue of cultural heritage is of key importance in regards to the historic element of the District's Town Centres, however the constraints of the proposals in light of this are not highlighted within the policy.	/	/	/
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	The impacts of this policy on the reducing contributions to climate change are unknown where the specific details of the regeneration proposals are unknown at this stage, and it is not clear where they will be elaborated on in the District's LDF. Despite this, there are likely to be positive impacts regarding reducing contributions to climate change in synergy with Policy CS9.	/	/	/
Objective 12: To improve water quality	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 14: To improve air quality	It is uncertain whether the policy will improve air quality in the District's Town Centres. Potentially significant junctions, each with a daily flow of more than 10,000 vehicles in 2004 are located at Newland Street and Cressing Road in Witham, Head Street in Halstead, and Railway Street and Rayne Road in Braintree. Where timescales and delivery mechanisms for town centre regeneration are unknown, it is uncertain whether development will occur in line with the timescales of the capacity improvements required for the Growth Locations at these points.	/	/	/
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	The impacts of this policy on maintaining and enhancing the quality of townscapes are uncertain where the specific details of the regeneration proposals are unknown at this stage, and it is not clear where they will be elaborated on in the District's LDF. The issue of cultural heritage is of key importance in regards to the historic element of the District's Town Centres.	/	/	/

TABLE 7: POLICY CS7 PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	No direct impacts on this objective until design specifics are known.	0	0	0
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	The impact of this Policy is largely uncertain as it is unclear what is meant by accessible location and it is recommended a consistent definition be added to the glossary. The policy includes provision for cycling and walking which could have positive impacts on health however the impact has been viewed as uncertain due to uncertainty as to who would provide these contributions.	/	/	/
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	No direct impacts on this objective until delivery mechanisms are secured.	0	0	0
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	No direct impacts on this objective until delivery mechanisms are secured.	0	0	0
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	Positive impacts are evident through an improvement of pedestrian, cycling and public transport linkages and junction and crossing improvements to improve accessibility between new and existing housing and key services as a result of the successful implementation of this policy. Despite this however the policy is not viewed as likely to provide a significant positive impact, as implementation and enforcement of CS7 may be difficult in practice.	+	+	+
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	As specified in the Policy, and supported by housing, employment and mixed-use development proposals coming forward from the wider Core Strategy, future development will be provided in accessible locations to services and facilities to reduce the need to travel. Despite this, it is uncertain as to what an accessible location is defined as, and it is recommended it be added to the glossary.	/	/	/
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	No direct impacts on this objective until delivery mechanisms are secured.	0	0	0

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	Positive intentions, however uncertain due to a lack of full clarification as to how policy CS7 could be implemented in practice.	/	/	/
Objective 12: To improve water quality	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 14: To improve air quality	Positive intentions, however uncertain due to a lack of full clarification as to how policy CS7 could be implemented in practice.	/	/	/
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0

TABLE 8: POLICY CS8 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	Likely to have positive impacts on improving the health of the Districts residents through the minimisation of pollution. The SANG targets highlighted within the supporting text could be included within CS8 to strengthen the impact on health.	+	+	+
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	The policy will positively impact on conserving and enhancing the biological and geological diversity of the environment. Furthermore, the impacts of new Greenfield development through the delivery of the Growth Locations in the long term will be mitigated.	+	+	+
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	No direct impact on this objectives	0	0	0
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	No direct impact on this objectives	0	0	0
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	Braintree contains a largely ancient fieldscape of irregular medieval fields. The policy, in avoiding the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land, as well as enhancing and managing the natural environment, may have indirect positive impacts on the maintenance of this cultural asset. It is recommended however that the policy responds more directly to the heritage value of certain areas of the District's natural environment.	/	/	/

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	The impacts of this policy on reducing contributions to climatic change are uncertain. The policy states that all development proposals will ensure the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, habitats and biodiversity and geo-diversity of the District from air pollution. Despite this, there are no active details on how this will be ensured within the policy. Whilst not sited within the policy the impact of implementation could provide for green infrastructure, particularly in locations where it will assist in reducing the impacts of climate change by providing flood water storage areas, sustainable drainage systems, urban cooling and local access to shady outdoor space.	/	/	/
Objective 12: To improve water quality	Positive impacts on water quality where measures will be taken to prevent the deterioration in current water quality standards and promote the use of water efficiency measures. However the policy could be more specific as to what opportunities there are for new development to improve water quality in all watercourses and waterbodies.	+	+	+
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	There will be a positive impact on reducing the risk of flooding as a result of this policy where new development will be required to mitigate its impacts on the natural environment, people and property and the encouragement of SUDs in to deal with potential surface water runoff issues arising from new development. It is recommended however that instead of listing possible reasons why SUDs can not be implemented, the policy makes reference to their SFRA.	+	+	+
Objective 14: To improve air quality	The impacts of this policy on improving air quality are positive. The policy specifies that all development proposals will ensure the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, habitats and biodiversity and geo-diversity of the District from air pollution, however this is not a major positive where it can be seen to mitigate the negative impacts of the development and not tackle wider air quality issues throughout the District and their impacts on the residents of the District.	+	+	+
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	There will be positive impacts on this objective where new development must mitigate any negative impacts it may have, with regard to the character of the landscape and its sensitivity to change and where development is permitted it will need to enhance the locally distinctive character of the landscape in accordance with the Landscape Character Assessment. There may be positive synergistic effects on the quality of townscapes in conjunction with Policies CS6 and CS9.	+	+	+

TABLE 9: POLICY CS9 BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	<p>There will be positive impacts on safe usable environments as a result of this policy. Despite this, it is recommended that the policy includes details on how this may be implemented, whether in reference to layouts or specific design features that will be required. This is of key importance in light of the proposals within Policy CS7 and the levels of public realm improvements required emanating from proposals in policies CS1 and CS4.</p> <p>New development proposals will have to respond to area specific design and densities, which will maximise the potential for social cohesion between new and existing uses.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	<p>The creation of a safe, usable and inclusive public realm to support new developments will have a positive impact in providing decent homes. The sympathetic re-use of buildings in order to stimulate sustainable development and regeneration, seeks to improve the requirements of existing housing developments, widening the focus of the Strategy beyond new development to address the District's needs. Developments that are capable of meeting the changing future of occupiers, especially in housing development address demographic trends of the District's population, although not the current requirement of lifetime homes provision, which limits the positive impact.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	<p>The impacts of this policy on town centre vitality and viability will be positive in line with creating a safe and accessible public realm, and pedestrian and cycleways in conjunction with projects identified in Policy CS7 to link town centres with housing growth in Policy CS1, employment development in Policy CS4 and in the development of the Growth Locations in the long term. Despite this, there are uncertain implications over the protection of the historic element of town centres, and how new development will respond to it.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	This policy will have an uncertain impact on promoting accessibility where specific details of schemes are unknown, and what impact they will have on accessibility problems in the District.	/	/	/
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	This policy will have an uncertain impact on the maintenance and enhancement of cultural heritage and assets within the District. The policy could be read to imply that development and the setting of historic or important buildings are mutually exclusive. It is recommended that the policy has a larger focus on the historic environment in the District, responding more directly to local circumstances.	/	/	/
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	This policy will have a positive impact on this objective through securing the maximum possible use of renewable energy and energy efficient building materials and design.	+	+	+
Objective 12: To improve water quality	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 14: To improve air quality	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	This policy will have an uncertain impact on the maintenance and enhancement of townscapes within the District. The policy could be read to imply that development and the setting of historic or important buildings are mutually exclusive. It is recommended that the policy has a larger focus on the historic environment in the District, responding more directly to local circumstances. The policy will have an uncertain impact on the landscape of the District. It is not clear whether development will (through respecting and responding to local context) or will not be permitted in areas of highest landscape sensitivity.	/	/	/

TABLE 10: POLICY CS10 PROVISION FOR OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	<p>The provision of new open space, sport and recreation facilities as part of new development will impact positively on housing developments and the health of residents where provided in accessible locations as per the standards set out in the Open Space SPD. Despite this, there is scope for this policy to be more specific to the District and the development proposals in the Core Strategy, particularly where housing trajectories and the scale of some individual developments are defined elsewhere in the Strategy, and amendments to the Open Space SPD have not been made at this stage.</p> <p>It is unsure how new development can remedy existing deficiencies in the provision of open space, sport and recreation in the areas of greatest deficiency outside making or replacing provision as part of new development.</p>	+	+	+
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	<p>The impacts of this policy on biodiversity on the whole may be positive in line with new provision; despite this it is uncertain what the impacts will be in the short to medium term as new development opportunities are not identified in the strategy and therefore it is unknown what level of new open space provision will be required. In the long term, the development of the Growth locations may have a positive impact on this objective through the provision of new sport and recreational opportunities for new residents, however at a loss of open space and biodiversity.</p>	/	/	/

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	In providing open space for new development to serve new housing and commercial developments specified in the wider Strategy, it is important that provision is accessible in regards to public realm improvements and walking and cycling. In regards to the adoption of the Open Space SPD, it is recommended that the policy makes reference to the thresholds of required provision in response to new housing targets, and also to the requirement of provision being within certain distances of housing as per the SPD.	0	0	0
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	In providing open space for new development to serve new housing and commercial developments specified in the wider Strategy, it is important that provision is accessible in regards to public realm improvements and walking and cycling. Therefore the impacts are positive. In regards to the adoption of the Open Space SPD, it is recommended that the policy makes reference to the thresholds of required provision in response to new housing targets, and also to the requirement of provision being within certain distances of housing as per the SPD.	+	+	+
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 12: To improve water quality	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 14: To improve air quality	No direct impact on this objective.	0	0	0
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	The impacts of this policy on landscapes and townscapes on the whole may be positive in line with new provision; despite this it is uncertain what the impacts will be in the short to medium term as new development opportunities are not identified in the strategy and therefore it is unknown what level of new open space provision will be required. In the long term, the development of the Growth locations may have a positive impact on this objective through the provision of new sport and recreational opportunities for new residents, however at a loss of open space that may impact on landscape.	/	/	/

TABLE 11: POLICY CS11 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 1: Create Safe Environments which do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion	No direct impact; however there will be positive impacts on the creation of safe environments and social cohesion in synergy with Policy CS9 and the public realm improvements as specified in Table 2 Infrastructure.	0	0	0
Objective 2: To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	No direct impact, however there will be positive impacts on providing everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home in synergy with Policy CS1 and the secondary cumulative impacts of CS2 (affordable housing delivery), CS4 (the delivery of employment development infrastructure), CS7 (the delivery of transport infrastructure improvements), CS9 (the delivery of public realm improvements) and CS10 (the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities).	0	0	0
Objective 3: To improve the health of the Districts residents and mitigate/reduce potential health inequalities	No direct impact, however the extension of GP surgeries for the Growth Locations and the creation of a new one at Sible Hedingham to support new housing growth will have a small positive impact on improving the health of the District's residents. The provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities further supports this objective; however the impacts on the wider existing population of the District will be minimal, responding to accessibility and public transport improvements throughout the District.	0	0	0
Objective 4: To promote town centre vitality and viability	No direct impact; however there will be a secondary positive impact on the District's town centres through the delivery of infrastructure improvements specified in Table 2 Infrastructure, regarding public realm improvements and the transport improvements required for the Growth Locations. There may be secondary negative impacts on the District's town centres however, through capacity improvements and safety enhancements to the A12, A120 and improvements to the Braintree Branch Line, making the town and regional centres of neighbouring District's more accessible.	0	0	0
Objective 5: To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth	No direct impact; however there will be positive synergistic effects on sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth with Policy CS4 and the delivery of supporting infrastructure as a result of this policy.	0	0	0
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the environment	No direct impact; however there may be indirect positive impacts in synergy with SUDS flood prevention/relief measures and open space provision to be provided through developed contributions throughout the District where required.	0	0	0
Objective 7: To promote more sustainable transport choices.	No direct impact; however the delivery of footpath and cycleway provision and public transport improvements throughout the District will have positive impacts. There may be secondary negative impacts on the District's town centres however, through capacity improvements and safety enhancements to the A12 and A120, making private car travel more viable and attractive.	0	0	0

Sustainability Objectives	Comment	S	M	L
Objective 8: Promote accessibility	No direct impact; however there is likely to be a positive impact on accessibility in synergy with Policy CS7 regarding capacity improvements and safety enhancements to the A12, A120 and improvements to the Braintree Branch Line as specified in Table 2 Infrastructure. Further positive impacts result from smaller scale accessibility improvements from infrastructure improvements required of development within the District, particularly with the development of the Growth locations in the long term.	0	0	0
Objective 9: To improve the education and skills of the population	No direct impact; however the relocation of Braintree College and the development of a wider range of employment opportunities will have positive impacts in the long term with the development of the Growth Locations at Panfield Lane and Great Notley Business Park respectively.	0	0	0
Objective 10: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage and assets within Braintree	No direct impact; however there may be a positive secondary impact on this objective in the long term through improvements to the public realm to support the development of the Growth Locations and any town centre regeneration proposals that may come forward.	0	0	0
Objective 11: To reduce contributions to climatic change	No direct impact on this objective	0	0	0
Objective 12: To improve water quality	No direct impact; however a requirement for the delivery of flood prevention/relief measures and/or SUDS in new development, and the indirect associated impacts on water quality, will positively impact on this objective in synergy with Policy CS8.	0	0	0
Objective 13: To reduce the risk of flooding	No direct impact; however a requirement for the delivery of flood prevention/relief measures and/or SUDS in new development will positively impact on this objective in synergy with Policy CS8.	0	0	0
Objective 14: To improve air quality	No direct impact; however in synergy with Policy CS7, the delivery of public transport and pedestrian and cycleway improvements will impact positively on air quality in the District. These impacts are further supported by improvements to the public realm as specified in the policy and in synergy with Policy CS9. Impacts will become more positive in the long term through the capacity improvements required in the development of the Growth Locations, specifically where they will impact on Potentially Significant Junctions within the towns of Braintree and Witham.	0	0	0
Objective 15: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	No direct impact; however there will be positive impacts on the quality of landscapes and townscapes resulting from this policy in synergy with Policies CS6, CS9 and CS10. The impacts are likely to become more positive in the long term through the development of the Growth Locations.	0	0	0

